

STATE SENATOR • MICKEY SWITALSKI • 10TH DISTRICT

Switalski Press Release

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SEN. SWITALSKI BILL ECHOES CITIZEN SENTIMENT ON EXPANDED BOTTLE RETURN

LANSING – The Bigger Better Bottle Bill Coalition, a coalition of environmental groups, has announced results of a voter survey saying that Michigan residents overwhelmingly support expanding the state's bottle deposit law to include water, tea, fruit and sports drinks. The statewide survey of 1,000 Michigan residents indicated that between 73% and 76% of those surveyed support expanding the bill to include the additional beverage containers. Sen. Mickey Switalski (D-Roseville) says he has repeatedly proposed legislation that does exactly that.

“The original bottle deposit law has proven extremely successful in reducing litter and landfill refuse, but since then an entire new category of non-carbonated beverage containers has emerged,” Switalski said. “SB 174, which I have sponsored, would expand the Beverage Container Law to include non-alcoholic carbonated and non-carbonated beverages in all containers made of glass, metal or plastic one gallon or less in size. That covers water bottles, juice cans and bottles, and sports drinks and responds to the survey findings.”

Litter control was the most commonly expressed reason for support. The new legislation could add approximately 800 million additional containers to the system. Estimates indicate that the current deposit system includes 4.3 billion containers.

Michigan voters overwhelmingly approved the original bottle deposit law in 1976. Since passage, litter has been reduced by 80 percent and an estimated 600,000 tons of container refuse has been diverted annually from landfills. Legislation passed in 1989 added wine cooler and mixed spirit containers.

The Bigger Better Bottle Bill Coalition includes the Container Recycling Institute; Ecology Center, Michigan Association of Conservation Districts, Michigan Environmental Council, Michigan League of Conservation Voters, Michigan United Conservation Clubs, National Wildlife Federation, Public Interest Research Group in Michigan, and Sierra Club.

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